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ABSTRACT

A follow-up study was conducted at William Rainey Harper College (WRHC) to evaluate and obtain externally required information about the dietetic technician program. Surveys were mailed to all 47 of the students who graduated from the program between 1980 and 1982 to obtain information on their employment status, job title, length of service, relatedness of current job to dietetic technician, salary, job search experiences, evaluation of preparation, and continuing education experiences. Study findings, based on a 92% response rate, included the following: (1) 56% of the respondents were employed full-time and 32% were employed part-time; (2) among those employed full-time, 79% were working in a field related to dietetic technician, while only 38% of the respondents employed part-time were working in a related field; (3) about 18% of the respondents reported difficulty in finding a job; (4) 42% of those employed full-time found their jobs through the WRHC program coordinator, clinical faculty, or contacts, and 21% found their jobs on their own; (5) the average salary of the program graduates was $13,000 per year, compared to an average of $14,373 for all WRHC graduates; (6) 90% of the graduates were satisfied with their jobs, and 70% felt their jobs matched their skills; (7) previously identified dietetic tasks were performed less frequently by 1982 graduates than by earlier graduates; and (8) about 40% of the respondents had continued their education since completing the dietetic technician program. Extensive data tables and the survey instrument are included. (Author/HB)

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WILLIAM RAINEY HARPER COLLEGE

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FOLLOW-UP STUDY OF DIETETIC TECHNICIAN GRADUATES 1980-1982

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ABSTRACT

THE PURPOSE OF THIS FOLLOW-UP STUDY WAS PARTIALLY TO EVALUATE THE DIETETIC TECHNICIAN PROGRAM AND PARTIALLY TO OBTAIN EXTERNALLY REQUIRED INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROGRAM. ALL FORTY SEVEN GRADUATES OF THE PROGRAM FROM 1981 TO 1982 WERE INCLUDED IN THE STUDY. AFTER THE SURVEY INSTRUMENT WAS ORIGINALLY MAILED TO THEM, A FOLLOW-UP MAILING ENSUED AND THEN TELEPHONE CALLS PURSUED THOSE STILL NOT RESPONDING. WITH THE COMPLETION OF THE FOLLOW-UP CAMPAIGN, 92 PERCENT OF THE ORIGINAL TARGET POPULATION HAD RESPONDED.

RESULTS OF THE STUDY SHOWED THAT 56 PERCENT OF THE GRADUATES WERE EMPLOYED FULL TIME AND 88 PERCENT WERE EMPLOYED EITHER FULL OR PART TIME. ABOUT 18 PERCENT OF THOSE SURVEYED INDICATED THEY HAD SOME DIFFICULTY OBTAINING EMPLOYMENT. AVERAGE SALARY ($13,000) FOR THESE (WOMEN) GRADUATES WAS LOWER THAN THE AVERAGE SALARY ($14,173) FOR ALL HARPER CAREER GRADUATES. THE VAST MAJORITY (90 PERCENT) OF THESE DIETETIC TECHNICIAN GRADUATES WERE WELL SATISFIED WITH THEIR JOBS. GRADUATES ALSO REPORTED BEING VERY WELL PREPARED FOR ALMOST ALL THE TASKS THEY PERFORMED AND THE DIETETIC TECHNICIAN PROGRAM APPEARED TO BE VERY RELEVANT TO THE TASKS REQUIRED IN THE FIELD.

THERE WAS SOME EVIDENCE IN THIS LATEST 1982 SURVEY THAT PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED DIETETIC TASKS WERE PERFORMED LESS FREQUENTLY BY HARPER GRADUATES IN THE FIELD THAN WAS THE CASE IN PAST YEARS. THERE MAY BE A NEED IN FUTURE STUDIES TO DETERMINE WHETHER MORE RECENT DIETETIC TECHNICIAN GRADUATES ARE NOW PERFORMING DIFFERENT TASKS.

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this Dietetic Technician graduates follow-up study was partially to evaluate the Dietetic Technician Program and partially to obtain externally required information about the program. The study was requested by the Dietetic Technician Program Coordinator, Henriette Gebert.

POPULATION SURVEYED

All forty seven graduates of the Dietetic Technician program in the period from 1980 to 1982 were included in this study. After the initial mailing and the subsequent follow-up procedures, the following survey response rates were obtained from these graduates:

Response Situation	1982 Survey	
	N	PCT
Returned survey by mail	33	70.2
Answered survey questions over the telephone	10	21.3
Total Responses	43	91.5
Refused to answer	2	4.3
Original mailing returned non-forwardable	2	4.2
Unable to reach by telephone	0	0
Total Non-Responses	4	8.5
Total Target Population	47	100.0

The 92 percent response rate for students is very exceptional and insures against any response bias. Therefore, the responders should be very representative of the entire target population.

METHOD

The survey instrument shown in the appendix was developed jointly by the Coordinator of the Dietetic Technician Program, Henriette Gebert, and the Office of Planning and Institutional Research. This instrument was mailed to all members of the target population along with the cover letter shown and a stamped return envelope. After three weeks another survey instrument was mailed to those not responding. After another three weeks those still not responding were telephoned and asked either to return the survey by mail or answer the questions over the telephone. The results of this survey were compared to earlier studies in 1979 and 1981 of Dietetic graduates from 1975-1981.

CONCLUSIONS

After graduating from the Dietetic Technician Program at Harper 56 percent

were employed full time and a total of 88 percent were employed either full or part time. There seems to be a trend over the years for fewer to be unemployed and more to be employed part time. In terms of difficulty of finding employment, some 4 to 5 percent are unemployed seeking employment while 13 to 14 percent of those employed found their jobs with difficulty. Among those employed full time, 79 percent are engaged in a field related to a Dietetic Technician's. Among part-time employees, only 38 percent are in related fields. The trend seems to be toward more full-time employment and less part-time employment in the Dietetic field.

About 18 percent experience difficulty in finding employment, while 42 percent of those employed full time found their jobs either through the Program Coordinator, Henriette Gebert, or clinical faculty or contacts. Another 21 percent of those employed full time found their job on their own. Among those employed part time, this latter method predominated with 42 percent finding their own jobs.

The average salary of those (women) graduates employed full time was $13,000 which is up 2.7 percent over the 1981 survey, but 8½ percent under the average of all career alumni in 1981. About 70 percent feel their jobs match their skills well and close to 90 percent are satisfied with their jobs. Fewer belong to professional associations than in the past. For example, in this study only 48 percent belonged to the American Dietary Association while in the past, two thirds belonged to this Association.

Graduates of the program feel they are very well prepared in skills central to the core of the Dietetic Technician Program and in skills which are often performed. The only areas in which the graduates feel they were less than adequately prepared are peripheral skills (such as supervising, training, coordinating, purchasing and making physical measurements) which are seldom performed. While this was true, students in the 1982 survey indicated they were slightly less prepared and performed thirty-two dietetic tasks far less often than students in the 1981 survey. For example, in the 1982 study, 44 percent of the students said they never performed the average dietetic task while in the 1981 study, only 29 percent said they never performed the average task. Moreover, on nine of the tasks, there were especially big changes in the frequency of performing them. These nine tasks are listed with the percents of never performing them for the 1982 study versus the 1981 study.

Develop and adjust a diet pattern for clients	47% vs. 13%
Obtains personal background data	47% vs. 17%
Revises nutritional care plan for clients documents	69% vs. 32%
Gathers lab data and medical history from chart	41% vs. 14%
Calculates nutrient and energy values	44% vs. 17%
Selects nutrition education material for clients	65% vs. 39%
Documents clients response to nutritional education	59% vs. 25%
Provides technical support for implementing nutrition education	65% vs. 35%
Makes physical measurements on clients	94% vs. 61%

This data raises the question as to whether dietetic technicians are now spending more time on tasks not listed on the survey instrument.

Since completing the AAS in Dietetic Technology, about 40 percent of the graduates have continued their education at a number of colleges, and

workshop opportunities. Some have continued to take additional courses at Harper. Nutrition, Dietetics, and Food Service are the subjects most often pursued.

Details of the results of this follow-up study are shown in the tables in the following section.

FOLLOW-UP SURVEY OF DIETETIC TECHNICIAN GRADUATES

Employment Status	1979 Survey N	1979 Survey PCT	1981 Survey N	1981 Survey PCT	1982 Survey N	1982 Survey PCT
Employed full time	23	59.0	31	58.5	24	55 8
Employed part time	7	17.9	11	20.7	14	32.6
Not employed - Seeking employment	3	7.7	2	3.8	2	4.7
Not employed - homemaker	5	12.8	5	9.4	1	2.3
Not employed - other reasons	1	2.6	4	7.6	2	4.6
TOTAL	39	100.0	53	100.0	43	100.0

Full-Time Employers

Hospitals	1981 N	Hospitals	1982 N
Lutheran General	4	Glenbrook Hospital	3
Suburban Medical Center	2	Elmhurst Memorial Hospital	2
St. Joseph	2	Alexian Brothers Medical Center	2
Alexian Brothers Medical Center	1	Gottlieb Memorial Hospital	1
Condell Memorial - Libertyville	1	Sherman Hospital	1
Elmhurst Memorial	1	Highland Park Hospital	1
Swedish Medical Center - Seattle	1	Suburban Medical Center	1
Rush Presbyterian - St. Luke's	1	Holy Family Hospital	1
Memorial Hospital of DuPage	1	McHenry Hospital	1
V.A. Hospital - Hines	1	Condell Memorial Hospital	1
		Lutheran General Hospital	1
TOTAL	15		15

Long-Term Care and Senior Citizen Residences		Long-Term Care and Senior Citizen Residences	
Lee Manor Nursing Home Des Plaines	1	Friendship Village Schaumburg	2
Friendship Village Schaumburg	1	St. Joseph Home for the Elderly, Palatine	1
Carestoll Rehabilitation and Long-Term Care, McHenry	1	Royal Elm C and G Center	1
Lutheran Home and Services for the Aged, Arlington Hgts.	1	Lakeview Nursing and Geriatric Center	1
TOTAL	4		5

	1981 N
Other Employers in Related Areas to Dietetic Technician	
Quaker Oats - Barrington	2
WIC Program - Lake County Health Dept.	1
U.S. Navy - Galley	1
Upjohn Health Care Services, Santa Cruz	1
TOTAL	5
Other Employers in Unrelated Areas	
Technical Publishing Company	1
Mohawk Finishing Products	1
TOTAL	2
Employers not specified	5
Total Employed Full Time	31

	1982 N
Other Employers in Related Areas to Dietetic Technician	
Kraft Foods	1
TOTAL	1
Other Employers in Unrelated Areas	
First National Bank of Crystal Lake	1
Cintas (Uniform Rental)	1
Rome/Rega, Inc. (Men's Cologne)	1
TOTAL	3
Total Employed Full Time	24

Part-Time Employers	1981 N
Hospitals and Health Centers	
Suburban Medical Center	1
Alexian Bros. Medical Center	1
NW Community Hospital	1
Amer. Health Care Center. Arl. Hgts.	1
Good Shepherd Prof. Building	1
TOTAL	5
Other Employers in Related Areas to Dietetic Technician	
Ascension Church	1
TGI Fridays Restaurant	1
TOTAL	2
Other Employers in Unrelated Areas	
Harper College Public Safety	1
House of Brides	1
TOTAL	2
Employers not specified	2
Total Employed Part Time	11

Part-Time Employers	1982 N
Hospitals and Health Centers	
Tacoma Adventist Hospital	1
Sherman Hospital	1
Brandel Care Center	1
Well Child Clinic	1
Dr. Bruce Livingston	1
NW Physicians for Women	1
	6
Other Employers in Related Areas to Dietetic Technician	
TGI Fridays Restaurant	1
Marshall Field & Company	1
	2
Other Employers in Unrelated Areas	
Plitt Theaters	1
Franks Nursery	1
J.Beauchamp, Attorney	1
Self-employed	3
	6
Total Employed Part Time	14

FULL-TIME JOB TITLES

Dietetic Technician Identical Job Titles	1981 N	1982 N
Dietetic Technician	16	11
Director of Dietary Services	1	0
Nutrition Aide	1	0
Clinical Dietetic Technician	0	1
TOTAL	18	12
Job Titles Related to Dietetic Technician		
Food Service Director	0	1
Health Care Supervisor	0	1
Food Service Supervisor	2	2
Sensory Evaluation Technician or Specialist	2	1
Food service worker	1	0
Project technician	1	0
Service coordinator	1	0
Food production supervisor	1	0
Food service buyer	0	1
Asst. Director, Food Service	0	1
Director of Dietary Services	0	1
TOTAL	8	8
Job Titles Unrelated to Dietetic Technician		
Receptionist	0	1
Reader Service Clerk	1	0
General Office	1	0
Cash Collection Agent	1	0
Social Activities Director	1	0
Bookkeeper	0	1
Secretary	0	1
Production worker/uniform rental company	0	1
TOTAL	4	4
Job Title Not Specified	1	0
TOTAL Full-Time Employees	31	24

PART-TIME JOB TITLES	1981 N	1982 N
Dietetic Technician Identical Job Titles		
Nutritional Therapist	0	1
Dietetic Technician	4	1½
Diet Aid	1	½
Dietetic Assistant	0	1
TOTAL	5	4
Job Titles Related to Dietetic Technician		
Food Service Supervisor	0	1
Food Service Worker	1	0
Rectory Cook	1	0
Cook/Baker	0	1
Cake Decorator	0	1
TOTAL	2	3
Job Titles Unrelated to Dietetic Technician		
Sales Person	0	1
Receptionist	0	1
Clerk	0	1
Police Dispatcher	1	0
Legal Assistant	0	1
Bridal Consultant	1	0
Private Housekeeper	0	1
Greenhouse Manager	0	1
Cashier	0	1
TOTAL	2	7
Job Titles Not Specified TOTAL	2	0
TOTAL Employed Part Time	11	14

Length of Service at Present Employment for those Employed Full Time

Months of Service	1981 N	1982 N
96	1	0
54	1	0
50	0	1
48	1	0
43	1	0
39	1	0
36	4	1
32	0	1
30	0	2
28	1	1
26	0	1
24	4	2
23	2	0
22	0	1
19	1	0
18	0	3
14	1	2
13	1	0
12	0	2
10	2	0
9	1	2
8	1	0
7	1	1
6	1	0
5	1	1
4	1	0
3	1	2
2	0	1
1.5	1	0
Subtotal	29	24
Service not Specified	2	0
TOTAL	31	24
Median	23 mos.	18 mos.
Mean	24.3 mos.	18.6 mos.

Length of Service at Present Employment for those Employed Part Time

Months of Service	1981 N	1982 N
48	0	1
39	1	0
36	1	0
32	1	0
18	0	1
15	1	0
13	0	1
12	0	2
9	1	0
8	0	2
6	0	1
5	2	1
4.5	0	1
4	1	2
3	1	1
Subtotal	9	13
Service not Specified	2	1
TOTAL	11	14
Median	9 mos.	8 mos.
Mean	16.4 mos.	11.2 mos.

Relatedness of Present Job to a Dietetic Technician

Degree of Relatedness	Relatedness	Full-Time Employees						Part-Time Employees					
		1979 Survey		1981 Survey		1982 Survey		1979 Survey		1981 Survey		1982 Survey	
		N	PCT	N	PCT	N	PCT	N	PCT	N	PCT	N	PCT
2	Identical	11	47.8	7	23.3	8	33.3	2	28.6	2	20.0	0	0
1	Related	6	26.1	14	46.7	11	45.9	3	42.8	3	30.0	5	38.5
0	Not Related	6	26.1	9	30.0	5	20.8	2	28.6	5	50.0	8	61.5
TOTAL		23	100.0	30	100.0	24	100.0	7	100.0	10	100.0	13	100.0
Mean degree of Relatedness		1.22		.93		1.13		1.00		.70		.38	

Annual Salary for those Employed Full Time

Salary Range	1979 Survey		1981 Survey		1982 Survey	
	N	PCT	N	PCT	N	PCT
Under $5,000	1	4.8	0	0	0	0
$ 5,000 - $ 6,999	0	0	0	0	0	0
$ 7,000 - $ 7,999	0	0	1	3.6	1	4.2
$ 8,000 - $ 8,999	3	14.3	0	0	2	8.3
$ 9,000 - $ 9,999	4	19.0	2	7.1	1	4.2
$10,000 - $10,999	5	23.8	3	10.7	1	4.1
$11,000 - $11,999	3	14.3	2	7.1	1	4.2
$12,000 - $14,999	5	23.8	19	67.9	15	62.5
$15,000 - $18,000	0	0	1	3.6	2	8.3
Over $18,000					1	4.2
SUBTOTAL	21	100.0	28	100.0	24	100.0
No Salary specified	2	9.1	3	9.7	0	0
TOTAL	23		31		24	
Mean Salary	$10,524 → +20 percent →		$12,643 →		+ 2.7 percent →	$12,980
Median Salary	$10,500 → +24 percent →		$13,026 →		+ 2.1 percent →	$13,300

Hourly Rates of those Employed Part Time

Hourly Rate	1981 N	Hourly Rate	1982 N
$ 7.35	1	$10.00	1
$ 6.25	1	$ 9.00	1
$ 6.00	1	$ 8.00	1
$ 5.56	1	$ 7.00	1
$ 5.00	1	$ 6.00	2
$ 4.90	1	$ 5.86	1
$ 4.10	1	$ 5.75	1
$ 4.00	1	$ 4.00	1
$ 3.90	1	$ 3.85	1
		$ 3.70	1
SUBTOTAL	9	SUBTOTAL	11
Did not Specify	2	Did not Specify	3
TOTAL	11	TOTAL	14
Median	$5.00 per hour	Median	$6.00 per hour +20% increase
Mean	$5.23 per hour	Mean	$6.29 per hour +20% increase

Difficulty in Finding a Job

	Employed Full Time					
	1979		1981		1982	
Difficulty Description	N	PCT	N	PCT	N	PCT
Had job lined up before graduation	7	30.4	10	33.3	8	34.8
Found job fairly easily after graduation	13	56.5	16	53.4	12	52.2
Found job but only with much difficulty	3	13.1	4	13.3	3	13.0
SUBTOTAL	23	100.0	30	100.0	23	100.0
Did not respond to item	0	0	1	3.2	1	4.2
TOTAL	23		31		24	

	Employed Part Time					
	1979		1981		1982	
Difficulty Description	N	PCT	N	PCT	N	PCT
Had job lined up before grad.	1	20.0	3	42.9	3	25.0
Found job fairly easily after graduation	4	80.0	3	42.8	7	58.3
Found job but only with much difficulty	0	0	1	14.3	2	16.7
SUBTOTAL	5	100.0	7	100.0	12	100.0
Did not respond to item	2	28.6	4	36.4	2	14.3
TOTAL	7		11		14	

HOW FORMER STUDENTS FOUND THEIR JOBS

Method	1979 F/T Emp. N	1979 F/T Emp. PCT	1979 P/T Emp. N	1979 P/T Emp. PCT	1980 F/T Emp. N	1980 F/T Emp. PCT	1980 P/T Emp. N	1980 P/T Emp. PCT	1981 F/T Emp. N	1981 F/T Emp. PCT	1981 P/T Emp. N	1981 P/T Emp. PCT
The Coordinator, Mrs. Gebert helped	7	36.8	0	0	7	25.0	½	6.3	4	16.7	1	8.3
Clinical instructor or contact	0	0	0	0	3½	12.4	2½	31.2	6	25.0	1	8.3
Found job on their own	4	21.0	3	42.8	4	14.3	3	37.5	5	20.8	5	41.7
Friend or Relative helped	3	15.8	1	14.3	4½	16.1	0	0	3	12.5	1	8.4
Newspaper ad or Employer Pub.	2	10.5	1	14.3	4	14.3	1	12.5	4	16.6	1	8.3
Employer Approached Person	1	5.3	1	14.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Employment Agency	1	5.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8.3
Had job already when entered Harper	1	5.3	0	0	3	10.7	0	0	1	4.2	0	0
Present College Teacher or Placement	0	0	1	14.3	0	0	1	12.5	0	0	1	8.4
Professional Association Contact	0	0	0	0	2	7.2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Previous Work Experience	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4.2	1	8.3
TOTAL	19	100.0	7	100.0	28	100.0	8	100.0	24	100.0	12	100.0
Did not respond to item	4	17.4	0	0	3	9.7	3	27.3	0	0	2	14.3
	23		7		31		11		24		14	

Degree to Which Job Matches Student Preparation	For Those Whose Present Job is Closely Related to a Dietetic Technician					
	1979 Survey		1981 Survey		1982 Survey	
	N	PCT	N	PCT	N	PCT
Students feel job allows them to practice the skills for which they were prepared	14	77.8	17½	70.0	17	70.8
Students feel underemployed. They feel they are prepared to do more duties than they can do on present job.	4	22.2	7½	30.0	7	29.2
TOTAL	18	100.0	25	100.0	24	100.0

For Those Whose Present Job is Closely Related to a Dietetic Technician

Jobs Which Students Feel They are Prepared to do But Cannot do on Present Job -- 1981 Survey

Check menus, do meal rounds, carry out simple diet instructions, visit diabetics, etc.

Counsel on a variety of diets.

Order and receive merchandise, modify menus, most office duties and patient diet instruction, etc.

Perform diet counseling and instructions only when there is time. Otherwise, do diet clerk duties, because we need the help. Boss tries to let me do diet counseling as much as possible.

More teaching skills could be used. Would like to teach diabetic education classes and do some part-time instructing.

Diet histories, calculating diet patterns, caloric counts, and some instruction.

Training was geared more to the diet office and working with patients. Am now doing only kitchen aide duties.

Jobs Which Students Feel They are Prepared to do But Cannot do on Present Job -- 1982 Survey

Hired as a food supervisor for 1-2 days a week and to perform Diet Tech duties one (3 hr) afternoon a week. I would prefer more time with nutritional care assessing, planning and implementation although I enjoy the diversification of two job roles.

Fill in when the Diet Tech regular is off. Adventist are vegetarians. The program should have done a little more with vegitarian diets and with working in ounces instead of basic cup measures.

Jobs Which Students Feel They are Prepared to do But Cannot do on Present Job -- 1982 Survey (cont'd)

Am working as a dietetic assistant, not as a technician.

I have absolutely no patient contact in my present position.

Because I am not working in a hospital, I am not able to work with therapeutic diets and work along with a dietitian.

At times I am working as a clerk, but not always.

Interview patients, calorie counts, check diabetic menus, some charting, I am allowed to do some of these, but time usually doesn't allow for the extra work.

Satisfaction on Present Job	Satisfaction Index	For Those Whose Present Job is Closely Related to a Dietetic Technician: 1979 Survey N	1979 Survey PCT	1981 Survey N	1981 Survey PCT	1982 Survey N	1982 Survey PCT
Very Satisfied	+2	11	57.9	9	34.6	9	37.5
Satisfied	+1	4	21.0	13	50.0	12.5	52.1
Bearable	0	3	15.8	3	11.5	2.5	10.4
Dissatisfied and looking for other employment	-1	1	5.3	1	3.9	0	0
TOTAL		19	100.0	26	100.0	24	100.0
Mean Satisfaction Index		+1.32		+1.15		+1.27	

Professional Association	For Those Whose Job is Closely Related to a Dietetic Technician -- Involved Actively in Professional Associations: 1979 N	1979 PCT	1980 N	1980 PCT	1981 N	1981 PCT
American Dietetic Association	23	69.6	26	65.4	21	47.6
Local Dietetic Association	23	21.7	26	30.8	21	19.1
Illinois Dietetic Association	23	4.3	26	19.2	21	19.1
HIEFSS - Hospital, Institutional and Educational Food Service Society	23	26.1	26	11.5	21	4.8
HIEFSS--Certified Technician	--	--	26	11.5	21	4.8

Degree to Which Students are Prepared for Various Job Responsibilities and Frequency These are Undertaken

Responsibility	Degree of Preparedness*		Percent Inadequately Prepared		Degree of Frequency**		Percent Who Never Perform This Duty	
	1981	1982	1981	1982	1981	1982	1981	1982
Evaluates acceptance of food - e.g. meal rounds	1.91	1.94	0	0	1.48	1.35	4.0	23.5
Verifies implementation of nutrition prescription for individual clients	1.91	1.82	0	0	1.79	1.65	8.3	11.8
Obtains diet history and meal patterns	1.88	1.82	0	0	1.58	1.29	8.3	23.5
Maintains clients cardex from diet order sheets	1.79	1.76	0	0	1.68	1.47	12.0	11.8
Writes menu in accordance with diet pattern written by dietitian for clients at nutritional risk, and make appropriate substitutions in accordance with pattern	1.74	1.71	0	0	1.57	1.24	8.7	29.4
Obtains personal background data	1.74	1.71	0	0	1.39	.88	17.4	47.1
Calculates nutrient and energy values	1.68	1.69	0	0	1.30	.81	17.4	43.8
Develops and adjusts a diet pattern for individual clients not at nutritional risk	1.78	1.59	0	0	1.57	.76	13.0	47.1
Monitors and documents adherence to or tolerance of nutritional care	1.75	1.56	0	6.3	1.44	1.12	20.0	29.4
Counsels individual clients not at nutritional risk concerning nutrition concepts and desired change in eating habits	1.67	1.56	0	0	1.12	1.12	23.1	29.4

Degree to Which Students are Prepared for Various Job Responsibilities and Frequency These are Undertaken (continued)

Responsibility	Degree of Preparedness* 1981	1982	Percent Inadequately Prepared 1981	1982	Degree of Frequency** 1981	1982	Percent Who Never Perform This Duty 1981	1982
Revises nutrition care plan for individual clients not at nutritional risk and documents in the medical record	1.58	1.56	0	0	.96	.63	32.0	68.8
Gathers laboratory data and medical history from chart	1.71	1.50	4.8	12.5	1.55	.94	13.6	41.2
Gives classes and lectures in basic nutrition to small groups of clients	1.50	1.50	4.6	6.3	.52	.53	56.0	58.8
Communicates plan for nutrition care to individual client or to family and documents in medical record	1.64	1.47	0	0	1.19	1.00	30.8	41.2
Develops nutrition care plan in consultation with a dietitian for individual clients not at nutritional risk	1.61	1.47	0	0	1.43	1.00	17.4	41.2
Communicates plan to health team members and documents in the medical record	1.54	1.47	0	5.9	1.00	1.12	36.0	35.3
Selects nutrition education materials - exhibits for clients not at nutritional risk	1.48	1.44	8.7	0	.88	.53	38.5	64.7
Communicates to appropriate personnel such as pharmacy, food service, central supply, the specific actions to implement the care plan and documents in the medical record	1.33	1.41	4.8	11.8	.87	1.06	39.1	35.3

Degree to Which Students are Prepared for Various Job Responsibilities and Frequency These are Undertaken (continued)

Responsibility	Degree of Preparedness* 1981	1982	Percent Inadequately Prepared 1981	1982	Degree of Frequency** 1981	1982	Percent Who Never Perform This Duty 1981	1982
Monitors the outcome of nutritional care for these clients and documents in the medical record	1.75	1.38	0	6.3	1.08	.81	40.0	56.3
Provides technical support implementing and maintaining nutrition education processes	1.38	1.35	12.5	11.8	1.00	.53	34.6	64.7
Uses current knowledge to solve client's nutritional problems	1.48	1.31	0	0	1.64	1.24	12.0	11.8
Helps in assessment	1.45	1.29	14.3	11.8	1.26	.94	30.4	47.1
Documents individual client's response to nutrition education	1.43	1.25	0	12.5	1.08	.71	25.0	58.8
Contributes the nutrition related expertise to the health team discussions of clients health status	1.50	1.24	0	11.8	1.42	1.18	8.3	29.4
Arranges for follow-up or terminates nutrition care of individual clients in consultation with a dietitian	1.35	1.12	0	5.9	1.22	.71	30.4	52.9
Meets with health team members to integrate nutrition care of clients	1.26	1.00	5.3	26.7	1.08	.71	20.0	41.2
Assists in an ongoing program of quality assurance for client care and delivery of services to clients	1.25	1.00	10.0	31.3	1.04	1.13	33.3	37.5

Degree to Which Students are Prepared for Various Job Responsibilities and Frequency These are Undertaken (continued)

Responsibility	Preparedness* 1981	Preparedness* 1982	Percent Inadequately Prepared 1981	Percent Inadequately Prepared 1982	Degree of Frequency** 1981	Degree of Frequency** 1982	Percent Who Never Perform This Duty 1981	Percent Who Never Perform This Duty 1982
Supervises and evaluates clerical personnel assigned to clinical dietetic functions	.95	.94	23.8	31.3	.56	.53	56.0	64.7
Implements orientation and training program for clinical dietetic personnel	.89	.93	27.8	33.3	.48	.47	64.0	64.7
Coordinates clinical dietetic activities with administrative dietetic activities	.84	.88	26.3	37.5	.61	.94	56.5	41.2
Utilizes established standards and procedures for purchasing food for modified diets	.84	.56	31.6	62.5	.38	.65	75.0	58.8
Measures mid-arm circumference, triceps skinfold, obtains height and weight	.60	.40	50.0	66.7	.52	.06	60.9	94.1
AVERAGE all Items	1.48	1.36	7.0	12.3	1.15	.91	29.4	44.0

* Scale of degree of preparedness: 2 = very well prepared
1 = adequately prepared
0 = inadequately prepared

** Scale of degree of frequency: 2 = perform this duty often
1 = perform this duty occasionally
0 = never perform this duty

Continuation of Education	1979 Survey N	1979 Survey PCT	1981 Survey N	1981 Survey PCT	1982 Survey N	1982 Survey PCT
Graduates who have continued their education at another college since leaving Harper	11	28.2	13	24.5	8	18.6
Graduates who have taken professional workshops or in-service training since leaving Harper	2	5.1	6	11.3	3	7.0
Graduates of the Dietetic Technician program who have taken additional courses at Harper	0	0	7	13.2	6	14.0
Graduates who have not continued their education since leaving Harper	26	66.7	27	51.0	26	60.4
TOTAL	39	100.0	53	100.0	43	100.0

Last College Attended After Leaving Harper	1979 Survey N	1981 Survey N	1982 Survey N
Northern Illinois University	2	4	3
Mundelein College	1	1	0
Vitebro College	0	1	1
Northeastern Illinois University	1	1	0
Moberly Junior College	1	1	0
Elmhurst College	0	1	1
University of Illinois - Champaign	0	1	1
Virginia Polytechnic Institute	0	1	0
Triton	0	1	0
University of Illinois - Circle	0	1	0
Seattle Pacific University	1	0	0
University of Wisconsin - Whitewater	1	0	0
Rosary College	1	0	0
College of DuPage	1	0	0
Illinois State University	1	0	0
College of Lake County	1	0	0
Tusculum College - Tennessee	0	0	1
Elgin Community College	0	0	1
TOTAL	11	13	8

Major Field at New College	1979 Survey N	1981 Survey N	1982 Survey N
Nutrition	6	3½	1-2/3
Dietetics	0	2½	1-2/3
Food Service Sanitation	0	1	1-2/3
Nursing	0	1	
Chemistry	0	½	
Aging	0	½	
Business	1	1½	1
Behavior Modification	1	0	
Art	1	1	
Jewish History	1	½	
A Cup Program	0	1	1
English	1	0	
Liberal Arts	0	0	1
TOTAL	11	13	8

Workshop or In-Service Training Topics at New Place of Employment

1979 Survey ---- Medical In-service training
First aid review

1981 Survey ---- Northern Illinois HIEFSS Society seminars, workshops and ADA spring and fall workshops

ADA nutritional assessment

Activity workshops - Rockford - 36 hours taught by professionals in field

Lutheran General Hospital in-service topics, such as internal and parental products, diabetic counseling, ostomy care, drug and nutrient interaction, nutrition and cancer patients, renal patients, hyperalimentation nutritional assessment.

Lutheran General Hospital dietetic workshop

Hines Hospital - new diet changes

1982 Survey ---- Wilton Enterprises - Cake decorating

Lutheran General Hospital - Yearly dietetic tech meeting

Condell - C.E. in-service

Malcolm X College - Food service management workshop

Northwest Hospital - Food service management nutritional care

Additional Courses taken at Harper after Graduating from Dietetic Technician Program

1981 Survey ---- Medical terminology - 2
Introduction to human disease (biology)
Assertive communication
Working toward an A.S. degree
Completed food service certificate
Chemistry, biology and mathematics
Management, philosophy and Spanish

1982 Survey ---- Food Service Management - Menu Planning
C.E. Spanish
Food Service Management Certificate
Child Psychology
Food Service Courses
Algebra
Chemistry

General Comments: Condell never had a Diet Tech. The job was created for her because of her qualifications. They decided they could use her services.

William Rainey Harper College
Algonquin and Roselle Roads
Palatine, Illinois 60067
312-397-3000

Dear Alumnus:

It is very important that you complete and return this questionnaire promptly.

To maintain approval status with the American Dietetic Association, it is necessary to have follow-up studies of dietetic technician graduates.

Harper College, in turn, can utilize the survey results to help in improving the curriculum and course offerings of the Dietetic Technician program.

Dr. Lucas will forward the separate newsletter page to our office.

Our greetings to all.

Sincerely,

Henriette Gebert

Henriette Gebert,
Coordinator,
Dietetic Technician Program

HG/lmb

William Rainey Harper College
Algonquin and Roselle Roads
Palatine, Illinois 60067
312-397-3000

Dear Alumnus:

Please complete and return with news of yourself for the Fifth Newsletter.

Name_____ Graduation Date_____

Address_____ Phone_____

_____

Are you employed? _____ Do you care to give any details for the newsletter?_____

_____

_____

ADA Member? Yes ( ) No ( )

Joined an ADA Practice Group? Yes ( ) No ( )

If YES, which one?_____

HIEFSS Member? Yes ( ) No ( )

HIEFSS Certified Member that is a CT? Yes ( ) No ( )

Local Dietetic Association? Yes ( ) No ( )

If YES, which one?_____

Are you a committee member of any professional association?

_____

_____

_____

Now for the really interesting news about yourself. Engaged? Married? Children? Grandchildren? Taken any interesting trips? Won any quiz shows?_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Thanks so much!

Continued on back page.....

Harper College is planning to conduct the first Survey of Employers of Harper College Dietetic Technicians. Would you kindly complete the following form and return it to us.

Name of Supervisor (Dietitian preferred)_____

Name of place where you are employed_____

Address_____

_____

Phone #_____

FOLLOW-UP SURVEY OF DIETETIC TECHNICIAN GRADUATES

1. Present employment status. Check (✓) one.

____A. Employed full time.
____B. Employed part time.
____C. Not employed but seeking employment.
____D. Not employed - homemaker.
____E. Not employed - other reasons.

2. Describe any college courses, continuing education or in-service training since leaving Harper.

College or Institution	Describe major field, type of continuing education or in-service training.
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

(If you are not employed, you may stop here and return survey form)

3. Give name and address of employer.

_____

_____

4. Give your job title.

_____

5. How many months have you been employed with this employer at this job? _____

6. What is your annual salary if you work full-time? Check (✓) one.

____A. $7,000 - $7,999
____B. $8,000 - $8,999
____C. $9,000 - $9,999
____D. $10,000 - $10,999
____E. $11,000 - $11,999
____F. $12,000 - $15,000
____G. $15,000 - $18,000
____H. over $18,000

If you work part-time, what is your hourly rate? $_____per hour

7. How did you find your present job? Check (✓) one.

____A. The Coordinator, Mrs. Gebert, helped me.
____B. Mrs. _____ Clinical Instructor helped me.
____C. A contact made in the clinical lab courses helped me get my job.
____D. Other (specify)_____

_____

8. How difficult was it for you to find a job? Check (✓) one.

____A. I had my job lined up before I graduated.
____B. I found my job fairly easily after graduation.
____C. I found a job, but only with much difficulty.

If you checked C answer the next question.

9. ____A. I am married and unable to relocate.
____B. I do not live within commuting distance of a hospital or other health care agency where there are jobs.
____C. I am not interested at this time in a hospital job.
____D. I am not interested at this time in a nursing home job.
____E. I am not interested in jobs in Chicago.

10. How related is your employment to a dietetic technician's duties? Check (✓) one.

____A. It is identical.
____B. It is closely related.
____C. It is not related.

(If your work is not related to a dietetic technician, you may stop here and return the survey.)

11. Do you feel your job matches what you were prepared to do? Check (✓) one.

____A. Yes, I feel my job allows me to practice the skills I was prepared for.
____B. No, I feel underemployed. I feel I am well prepared to perform the following duties which I cannot do on my present job. (Specify)_____

_____

_____

_____

12. How satisfied are you on your job? Check (✓) one.

____A. I am very satisfied.
____B. I am satisfied.
____C. It is bearable.
____D. I am dissatisfied and am looking for other employment.

13. What are your activities in professional associations? Check the appropriate activity for each.

Association	Am an Active Member	Am not a member
American Dietetic Association	_____	_____
State Dietetic Association	_____	_____
Local Dietetic Association	_____	_____
HIEFSS - Hospital, Institutional and Educational Food Service Society	_____	_____
HIEFSS - Certified Technician	_____	_____

14. Look over the following responsibilities appropriate for entry-level clinical dietetic technicians and check (✓) what duties you perform; and check (✓) how well you feel William Rainey Harper College prepared you in each area.

	Never perform this duty.	Perform this duty occasionally.	Perform this duty often.	Very well prepared in this area.	Adequately prepared in this area.	Inadequately prepared for this.
Assists in gathering nutritionally relevant data for nutritional assessment						
1. Obtains diet history & meal patterns						
2. Lab data and medical history from chart						
3. Measures mid-arm circumference , triceps skinfold, obtains height & weight.						
4. Obtains personal background data.						
5. Calculates nutrient & energy values.						
6. Helps in assessment.						
NUTRITION CARE PLANNING						
1. Develops nutrition care plan in consultation with a dietitian for individual patients/clients not at nutritional risk.						
2. Develops and adjusts a diet pattern for individual patients/clients not at nutrition risk.						
3. Writes menu in accordance with diet pattern written by dietitian for clients patients at nutrition risk, and makes appropriate substitutions in accordance with pattern.						

FREQUENCY				PREPARATION		
	NEVER	SOMETIMES	OFTEN	VERY WELL	ADEQUATE	INADEQUATE
NUTRITION CARE IMPLEMENTATION - DELEGATED ASPECTS						
1. Communicates plan for nutrition care to individual client patient or to patient's family and documents in the medical record.						
2. Communicates plan to health team members and documents in the medical record.						
3. Communicates to appropriate personnel such as pharmacy, foodservice, central supply, the specific actions to implement the care plan and documents in the medical record.						
4. Maintains client/patient cardex from diet order sheets.						
5. Verifies implementation of nutrition prescription for individual clients/patients (e.g. checking menus, diet orders, trays, nourishments).						
NUTRITION CARE EVALUATION-FOR THOSE NOT AT NUTRITION RISK						
1. Monitors and documents adherence to or tolerance of nutrition care (e.g. low calorie diet)						
2. Evaluates acceptance of food e.g. meal rounds.						
3. Monitors the outcomes of nutrition care for these clients/patients and documents in the medical record.						
4. Revises nutrition care plan for individual clients/ patients not at nutrition risk and documents in the medical record.						
NUTRITION EDUCATION AND REFERRAL						
1. Selects nutrition education materials/exhibits for clients/patients not at nutrition risk.						
2. Provides technical support for implementing and maintaining nutrition education processes(e.g. maintains files of materials for dissemination)						
3. Counsels individual clients/patients not at nutrition risk concerning nutrition concepts and desired change in eating habits.						
4. Gives classes and lectures in basic nutrition to small groups of clients/patients.						

FREQUENCY				PREPARATION		
	NEVER	SOMETIMES	OFTEN	VERY WELL	ADEQUATE	INADEQUATE
NUTRITION EDUCATION AND REFERRAL- cont'd						
5. Documents individual client's/patient's response to nutrition education.						
6. Arranges for follow up or terminates nutrition care of individual clients/patients in consultation with a dietitian.						
PROFESSIONAL/EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY AND DEVELOPMENT						
ACQUIRES CURRENT KNOWLEDGE: MAINTAINS STANDARDS IN TECHNICAL DIETETIC PRACTICE						
1. Uses current knowledge to solve client's/patient's nutrition problems.						
HEALTH TEAM FUNCTIONS						
1. Contributes the nutrition-related expertise to the health team discussions of clients/patients health status						
2. Meets with health team members(e.g. physicians, nurses, pharmacists, social workers) to integrate nutrition care of clients/patients.						
3. Coordinates clinical distetic activities with administrative dietetic activities.						
FOOD PROCUREMENT,PRODUCTION, AND SERVICE						
1. Utilizes established standards and procedures for purchasing food for midified diets.						
STRATEGIC DIRECTION AND PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT						
1. Assists in an ongoing program of quality assurance for patient care and delivery of services to clients/ patients.						
2. Implements orientation and training program for clinical dietetic personnel.						
3. Supervises and evaluates clerical personnel assigned to clinical dietetic functions (e,g. for productivity, quality, integrity)						

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JUL 29 1983